

Amendments To The Claims

Please cancel claims 2-4 and 6 without prejudice and amend claim 5 as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of authenticating information communicated between a first facsimile communication device and a second facsimile communication device via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving input data and generating facsimile information in a first format by said first communication device from said input data;
- b. processing said input data to compute an encrypted checksum;
- c. convolving said facsimile information with said encrypted checksum data to produce convolved data;
- d. decrypting, at said second communication device, said encrypted checksum ;
- e. computing a checksum of said input data received at said second communications device; and
- f. alerting a recipient at said second communication device in the event of a mismatch between said checksum data computed in step (e) and said decrypted checksum data in step (d).

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (amended): The method of claim 41, wherein a database system is communicatively coupled to said second facsimile communication device.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

configuring an e-mail system for receiving and displaying an alert message to said recipient along with said received input data.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)